

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2698

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

February 19, 2010

An act to amend Section 10618.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2698, as amended, Block. Foster youth: identity theft.

Under existing law, a county welfare department is required to request a consumer disclosure, pursuant to federal law, on behalf of a youth in a foster care placement in the county, when the youth reaches his or her 16th birthday, in order to ascertain whether the youth has been the victim of identity theft. If the consumer disclosure reveals any negative items, or evidence that identity theft has occurred, existing law requires the county welfare department to refer the youth to an approved organization that provides services to victims of identity theft. Existing law requires the department to develop a list of approved organizations for this purpose, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association and others.

This bill would revise the above provisions, to require the county welfare department or the State Department of Social Services to ascertain whether identity theft may have occurred under the described circumstances. The bill would require the matter to be referred to a governmental agency or nonprofit organization that provides information and assistance to victims of identity theft, rather than to an approved counseling organization. The bill would authorize the agency or the nonprofit organization to take remedial actions to clear the youth's

credit record and to report the results to the referring agency. The bill would require the Office of Privacy Protection, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services and other specified entities, to develop a list of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations *to which the matter may be referred for assistance in responding to an instance of suspected identity theft.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 10618.6 of the Welfare and Institutions
 2 Code is amended to read:
 3 10618.6. In the year that a youth in a foster care placement
 4 reaches his or her 16th birthday, the county welfare department or
 5 the State Department of Social Services shall request a consumer
 6 disclosure from *each of the three* national *consumer* credit reporting
 7 agencies, pursuant to the free annual disclosure provision of the
 8 federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (*15 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.*),
 9 on the youth’s behalf, notwithstanding any other provision of law,
 10 to ascertain whether or not identity theft may have occurred.
 11 Notwithstanding Section 827, Section 10850, or any other provision
 12 of law, both the county and the department are authorized under
 13 this section to make the request on a foster youth’s behalf. If a
 14 consumer disclosure for the youth exists, and if the consumer
 15 disclosure reveals any negative items, or any evidence that some
 16 form of identity theft may have occurred, the state or county, acting
 17 on behalf of the foster youth, shall refer the matter to a
 18 governmental agency or nonprofit organization that provides
 19 information and assistance to victims of identity theft. The agency
 20 or nonprofit organization is authorized under this section to take
 21 remedial action on behalf of the foster youth to clear his or her
 22 credit record and to report the results of the action to the referring
 23 county or state department. The Office of Privacy Protection, in
 24 consultation with the State Department of Social Services, the
 25 County Welfare Directors Association, consumer credit reporting
 26 agencies, and other relevant stakeholders, shall develop a list of
 27 agencies and organizations to which the matter may be referred
 28 for assistance in responding to an instance of suspected identity
 29 theft. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the

- 1 county welfare department or the State Department of Social
- 2 Services to make more than one request for a consumer disclosure
- 3 on behalf of a youth in care, or to take steps beyond referring the
- 4 matter to an agency or organization.

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